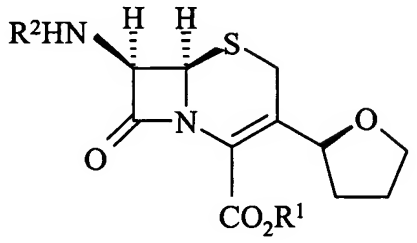
IN THE ABSTRACT:

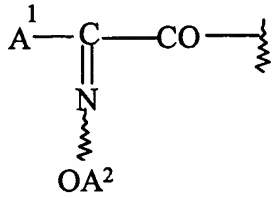
Please amend the abstract as follows:

~~This invention relates to a novel~~ A process for the preparation of 3-cyclic-ether-substituted cephalosporins of formula I



I

wherein the group CO_2R^1 is a carboxylic acid or a carboxylate salt and R^2 has the formula:

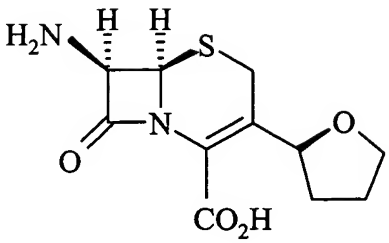


wherein

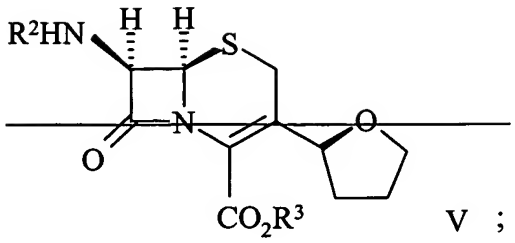
~~A^1 is selected from the group consisting of C_{6-10}aryl, C_{1-10}heteroaryl and C_{1-10}heterocyclyl;~~

~~A^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{1-6}alkyl(CO)(C_{1-6})alkyl-O-, HO(CO)(C_{1-6})alkyl, mono-(C_{6-10}aryl)(C_{1-6}alkyl), di-(C_{6-10}aryl)(C_{1-6}alkyl) and tri-(C_{6-10}aryl)(C_{1-6}alkyl);]~~

A^1 and A^2 have the meanings given in the specification by reacting ~~from~~ a ~~zwitterionic~~ compound of formula II[[;]]: ~~or from a compound of formula V:~~



II;



V ;

wherein R^2 is as defined above and R^3 is para-nitrobenzyl or allyl with a compound R^2 L[[.]] wherein R^2 is as defined above; and L is di-(C_{1-6} alkyl)phosphorothioate in the presence of a solvent and a base.

~~The invention also relates to the preparation of the above compounds of formulae II and V.~~